

Compensation

Grand Jurors make a commitment to serve a minimum of 20 hours per week (a minimum of five hours a day, four days a week) for a one-year term. They receive a stipend based on the number of days severed. Grand Jurors are also reimbursed for personal vehicle usage at the prevailing County mileage rate.

Complaints and Investigations

Any individual may submit a complaint to the Grand Jury. Complaints should include specific information, allegations, and supporting documentation. All complaints are acknowledged and remain confidential. Complainants are sent letters to communicate the action taken by the Grand Jury.

Complaint forms can be found online at:

kerncounty.com/government/other-agencies/grand-jury

The Grand Jury also investigates:

- Charges of malfeasance (wrongdoing)
- Misfeasance (a lawful act in an unlawful matter)
- Nonfeasance (failure by public officials to perform a required act)

The Final Report

At the end of each term, the Grand Jury issues a Final Report to the Presiding Judge. This document consolidates the investigative reports prepared and pre-released throughout the year by the Grand Jury, including findings and recommendations. The Final Report is available to the public and media online at:

kerncounty.com/government/other-agencies/grand-jury

Elected officials are required by law to respond to findings and recommendations contained in the Final Reports within 60 days of release. Other county entities must respond within 90 days.

Confidentiality

The Grand Jury is sworn to secrecy and complete confidentiality as it pertains to complaints, witnesses, or content of investigative matters. This ensures the protection and privacy of anyone coming before the Grand Jury with, or in response to, a complaint. No confidential information leaves the Grand Jury chambers.

YOU can make a difference in our community by becoming a valued member of the Kern County Grand Jury.

KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY



Why Become a Grand Juror?

Each year nineteen volunteer citizens are impaneled from the community to serve as the Kern County Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury is an investigatory “watchdog” body created to ensure that the best interests of all the citizens of Kern County are being served by local government. The volunteers enter this service to learn more about the administration and operation and to ensure these bodies of government comply with fiduciary responsibilities and are governed effectively.

1415 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 600
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 868-4797

kerncounty.com/government/other-agencies/grand-jury



Kern County Grand Jury

What You Should Know

The Kern County Grand Jury is a body of 19 citizens who are independent of any political or special interest group. No specific credentials are necessary to become a Grand Juror though an avid interest in all governmental agencies within Kern County is highly desirable. The Grand Jury is a diverse group of men and women with a wide range of backgrounds, experience and interests, covering a broad spectrum of beliefs.

What the Grand Jury Does

- Objectively investigates, audits, or examines all aspects of County government, special districts, and cities to ensure that these bodies are being effectively governed and that public monies are being handled prudently and in the best interests of the public.
- May subpoena persons and/or records to obtain information on subjects under investigation.
- May conduct criminal hearings to hand down criminal indictments.

Eligibility Requirements

You are eligible to be a Grand Juror if you:

- Are a citizen of the United States and at least 18 years or older.
- Have resided in the County of Kern for the past year.
- Have sufficient knowledge of the English language.
- Have not been discharged as a grand juror in any other county in California within one year.
- Have not been convicted of malfeasance in office or any felony or high crime.
- Are not serving as an elected public officer.

Selection Timeframes and Process

- In January of each year, the Superior Court solicits applications for volunteers.
- Applicants must attend a Mandatory Information Overview Meeting in March.
- All applications are screened and background checked.
- A committee of Superior Court Judges interviews each qualified applicant.

- In the Spring of each year, there is a random drawing by the Clerk of the Court, reducing the list of prospective jurors to thirty.
- The Presiding Judge may “hold over” as many as ten jurors from the previous Grand Jury.
- In June, the final Grand Jurors are chosen by a second random drawing. The new Grand Jury is then impaneled to serve a one-year term (July 1 through June 30).

Grand Jury Officers and Committees

A Foreperson is selected by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. The Grand Jury in turn selects a foreperson pro-tem, recording secretary, a sergeant-at-arms, and an assistant sergeant-at-arms.

Each juror may be assigned to one or more committees, including:

- Administration, Audit and County Services
- Cities and Joint Powers
- Health, Education and Social Services
- Law and Justice
- Special Districts

